

THE
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WALTER G. SMITH

EDITOR

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THE ASSASSIN AND THE STATE.

It is difficult to recall a single instance, in modern times, where the murder of the head of a State has done anything to improve the condition of the people. When a vengeful southerner fired the bullet which killed Abraham Lincoln, he brought a train of woes upon the South scarcely less terrible than those of the Civil War. The southern statesmen foresaw this and it added keen apprehension to their natural horror of such a crime. If anything needed the clear wisdom, the merciful impulses, the brotherly love, the all-embracing patriotism of the martyr President it was the task of reconstruction; and after his death this work fell into incapable or fanatical hands, with results of social anarchy and a long aftermath of sectional hatred. But for Booth's fatal shot, the North and South might be united now, there might be no solid south in national politics and the country below Mason and Dixon's line would be vastly more prosperous than it is.

The murder of Alexander II, of Russia, one of the most heartless of crimes, put back the regeneration of the Cossack empire many decades. Alexander was, in a very close and potent sense, the father of his people. He had emancipated the serfs; he had relieved famine by lengthening the railway system of the empire and at the time of his death he was considering the demand for a parliament. Diplomats of that period concurred in the sincerity of those ideals which he professed in common with the more humane and progressive of his subjects. His sway did not grind the faces of the poor and it troubled no heart of grace, yet the Nihilists denied him mercy. Unlike the meanest criminal on the gallows he was given no instant for prayer; a bomb hurled him in a moment's time, from nature to eternity. Then began the reign of the reactionaries. The new ruler, Alexander III., had been brought up to respect the rights of man and it was his first impulse to continue the noble policies of his sire; but when, in the first council of the empire under the new reign, Pobedonosteff, in a speech of iron logic, pointed out the peril of yielding to the mob, a peril his father had not avoided by concessions, and pleaded for the stern rule which had kept Russian czars on their thrones in the past, the clock of Muscovite history turned back. From that council Alexander III. emerged with a mailed hand and while he lived there was no liberty in Russia. Was it for this, also, that his successor, Nicholas II., deprived the Finns of their ancient charter and, in answer to the appeal of the Poles for freer air to breathe, put Warsaw in the hands of Cossacks?

What profited any one by the murder of the Empress of Austria? The day that deed was done there was a tightening of the coils about the people in every continental monarchy. What came of the striking down of President Carnot and of King Humbert of Italy? The lot of the under man in France was made no better and the institution of kingship in Italy, which had been shaken by continuous disorder up to that time, at once settled down into a state of apparent permanence. Where military burdens had been complained of, these were added to. Where general taxes were high, an increase was justified by the need of precautions against anarchy. If the press had been free it was made to feel the scrutiny of the censor. Where police had been harsh they became violent. One may well ask: What is the gain anywhere from regicide? Even Serbia was not the better for the tragic removal of a worthless ruler; it merely got another in his stead.

So long as the subject seeks reform by the knife, the bullet or the bomb, the king will justify the defense of his prerogative with the saber, the cannon and the gallows. When it comes to an issue of individual crime against the power of the state, the latter is bound to triumph. Modern revolutions are not made by the masked conspirator; they come through spontaneous uprisings of the people or by the slow pressure of public opinion upon a yielding fabric. Back of them is not the assassin but the schoolmaster. To those who love liberty and hate oppression; who long for the parliament of man and would disarm all crowns and scepters, such base creatures as those who lurked in the streets of Lisbon to shoot down the royal family, and who stained the snow beside the Neva with the blood of the Romanoff, are foes as dangerous as kings have found them—dangerous because they put back the time when the people may come to their own and impose the mastery of suffrage upon the functions of the state. The red flag menaces all government as the black flag was wont to do; it advances upon presidents and magistrates as well as upon kings; it is the enemy of man, and against it every manly hand is raised in horror and detestation.

ISLAND FRUIT TRADE.

We can hardly suppose, as an evening paper infers, that the Chamber of Commerce will try to convince the United Fruit company of Boston that Hawaii should be helped to compete, in the East, with the West Indian fresh fruit trade. Owing to relative distances such a thing would be impracticable in itself; and one could hardly expect help, in any event, from the company which controls the greater part of the West Indian fruit trade and has, besides its transportation interests, a large amount of money locked up in West India banana plantations.

What the United Fruit company should be asked to do is to connect with Hawaii to control the whole western fresh fruit trade as against the interests which are competing with it for that trade now through the port of New Orleans and which propose, very soon, to compete with it through San Francisco with a producing base at Acapulco. We have recently printed the news that a strong company has organized at San Francisco to grow bananas on a 400,000 acre farm at Acapulco and use them to drive the United Fruit company out of its western business. It seems clear that the new concern will have all the advantage of the short haul and the single haul unless the United Fruit company encourages banana culture here and buys the product. Then, with its superior facilities and capital and longer experience in the trade, it can more than hold its own and also crowd Jim Hill's banana and fresh pineapple business out of the Northwest. Hill is making money in selling Central American east shore fruits, which he brings up from New Orleans; but steamers direct from Honolulu to the Sound would put him out of the trade.

Hawaii should not indulge in day dreams about placing fresh fruit in the eastern market, although something might be done with extra fine pineapples. Our field is the West and the West is as big a proposition as we can handle.

ENTERTAINING THE FLEET.

It will be a great task for Honolulu to entertain the fleet, aside from the strain on private hospitality; but two things ought to be done:

First, the officers of the fleet should be given a banquet in the dining room of the Moana Hotel, unless a larger suitable place can be found. The best results to Honolulu have usually come from meetings of her first citizens and distinguished guests at a common feast. Such occasions afford a good chance to tell visitors what they want to know and to collect their impressions.

The sailors ought to be entertained in relays at a three days' barbecue in some enclosed space where roast oxen, sheep and pigs, soft tack and mild and healthful beverages will cheer them on their way.

If there is any money left it might be spent in giving the sailors ear tickets, good at all hours except those when the cars are filled with people going to or coming from business.

The Advertiser is, of course, open to substitute suggestions.

Harry Thaw is not so badly off. When it is shown that he has recovered his sanity on what ground can he be kept in an asylum? Harry will be an ornament to Pittsburg society yet.

Great Britain is an ally of Portugal and may be trusted to give the moral support of her fleet, if necessary to the young king in his efforts to restore tranquillity.

Raisuli has agreed to restore Sir Harry McLean. The price is not given but at last accounts quotations were firm.

It is not so much who gets the fleet as who has it on payday.

**INFORMATION WANTED
BY KNIGHT OF THE PLOW**

Honolulu, February 2, 1908.

Editor Advertiser: In your issues from time to time you offer kind suggestions to your readers to encourage the small farmers, and your efforts are all read with interest by many—those with small means, as well as those with some capital, and others that would no doubt invest. But there seems to be a lack of data. One does not know what can be grown here at a profit or the cost of the same.

If it could be possible to establish a bureau of information, that would issue bulletins from time to time that would tell the homesteader what his land will raise best, and what it should cost him to raise it, and where the market is for same, cost of transportation, etc., and what his profits would be, it would stop in a large measure this groping in the dark and be of great help to those that are trying hard to solve these problems.

I notice that some locations on this island grow peanuts. They grow wild, but no one seems to know what an acre would yield. Also, small red peppers grow prolific and sell on the local market for 10c. per pound, but no one seems to know what the yield would be or how long it would require to mature. In trying to bring small farmers here it would, it seems to me, be nice to show them what you had to offer them, and if it was all right and there was money in it for them, the lands here would soon treble in value.

We have an experiment station here. Why not put it to some use that will do the greatest good to the greatest number?

Thanking you for your past efforts in behalf of the knights of the plow, I am, dear sir, yours,
HOWARD McMILLEN.

[The crops that are advocated for the farmer are pineapples, sisal, tobacco and rubber. The question of peanuts and peppers has not been investigated; but most of the questions Mr. McMullen asks will be cheerfully answered by the officials of the U. S. Experiment Station. That station also issues bulletins. As to what a man's profits would be in any new enterprise we know of no authority to consult. Such things largely depend on the man.—Ed. Adv.]

BEFORE THE MURDER

(Continued from Page One.)

caped the censor, that states that the palace in Lisbon is surrounded by loyal troops, but that the King is practically a prisoner. The government will be interpellated tomorrow on what attitude it will take with regard to the Portuguese crisis and will be required to observe strict neutrality.

VARIOUS PREDICTIONS.

PARIS, November 24.—Reports representing that Portugal is on the eve of a revolution are received here with caution, as dispatches coming directly from that country have been censored, and those coming indirectly across the frontier are held more or less under suspicion. Both the reports of the banishment of the Crown Prince and the mutiny of the fleet are denied at the embassy here; nevertheless the making of arrests, the suspension of a newspaper and other repressive measures which have been taken by what Premier Franco terms an administrative dictatorship seem conclusive that matters in Portugal have entered upon a critical phase.

This condition undoubtedly has been precipitated by the interview with King Carlos, which was published last week, in which he announced his absolute faith in Premier Franco, and his intention to allow the Premier to choose the time for the holding of the election of the Cortes. The parliamentary opposition which has been stirring up the country for months past was expected by a gigantic demonstration planned for January 2 next to force the King to dismiss Premier Franco, but His Majesty's bold endorsement of the dictatorship removes this hope abruptly, consolidating the entire opposition in the direction of republicanism.

Senor Ma, the proprietor of the newspaper Vanguardia, of Lisbon, which was suppressed, is now in Paris, and considers that a republic is inevitable, and that the issue will be decided before January 1. He declares that the people are hostile to the dynasty and that the army is disaffected.

"If the King abdicates," he said, "there will be a peaceful republic, as in the case of Brazil. If he does not, there will be revolution with all its violent effects."

A correspondent of the Temps, who has just returned after an investigation of affairs in Portugal, and who has had an interview with King Carlos, Premier Franco, ex-Premier Castro and the ex-Premier of Justice, as well as opposition leaders, makes it clear that the situation is the outgrowth of scandalous practices which have been endured for years. The main objects of the progressive and regeneration parties alike under the rotative system, he says, was to preserve personal emoluments, and whether in office or out, they protected each other's sinecures, while at the same time the members of the royal family got "advances" which were never paid.

Premier Franco, when he assumed the dictatorship, cut off the parliamentary sinecures, arousing the fury not only of the politicians, but the courtiers as well, and even the Queen mother. On the other hand, he legalized the King's advances and increased his allowances by decree on the ground that the civil list was so insufficient that the royal family were obliged to sell the crown jewels, mortgage their property and hypothecate their holdings of government lands.

He, however, shrewdly increased the salaries of poorly paid government employees and the officers of the army and navy, the net results of these changes being a considerable saving to the treasury.

Premier Franco, according to the correspondent, insists that the people and the military are for the King and that the surface effervescence has been engineered by the politicians.

FEEL "LOGY" ?

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